

## REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner finds the grammar of claims 1 and 4-5 somewhat confusing, and asserts that claim 2 has a typographical error. Accordingly, claims 1 and 4-5 have been amended to clarify the existing grammar, and claim 2 has been corrected for the typographical error. The Examiner should find that no new matter has been introduced by these amendments, and that the Section 112 rejection should now be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Donahue et al. (U.S. 5,835,721). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the cited reference does not disclose (or suggest) either the reply unit, as in claims 1 and 4-5 of the present invention, or the reply information destruction unit, as in claim 2.

With respect to independent claims 1 and 4-5, although the Donahue reference does appear to describe monitoring a connection that maybe abnormally cutoff (interrupted), nothing in the text portions cited by the Examiner from Donahue teaches (or suggests) anything regarding a reply unit that stores reply information corresponding to a request issued by an external device. As featured in the present invention, the reply unit both transmits the reply information, and stores it in a memory. The present invention further features a connection monitoring unit that monitors the connection for transmitting the reply information from the reply unit. Donahue does not teach (or suggest) any similar reply unit that communicates in such a way with the connection monitoring unit.

Donahue merely teaches that a receiver is monitored for interruptions. (See column 1, lines 57-67). When there is an interruption in Donahue's system, information is communicated for the sending computer to determine which computers are available to receive data through the network, and also if there is data remaining to be sent. (See column 6, lines 25-29). Donahue, however, remains silent regarding the existence of any reply unit that is configured to transmit reply information corresponding to a request issued by an external device. More particularly, Donahue says nothing about storing any such reply information in a memory, as clearly recited in the present invention. The cursory rejection by the Examiner does not actually say where the Examiner considers these features of the present invention to exist in the Donahue reference. In fact, the Donahue reference only addresses some of the features of the present invention (i.e., interruptions/abnormal cutoffs), but not all of the claimed features. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1 and 4-5, as well as dependent claims 2-3, is respectfully traversed.

With respect to dependent claim 2 specifically, Applicants further traverse the rejection because Donahue fails to teach (or suggest) anything relating to the claimed reply information destruction unit of the present invention. Claim 2 specifically recites that the reply information destruction unit destroys the reply information stored in the memory when the destruction unit determines that the connection is normally released. Donahue fails to teach (or suggest) anything related to these features of the present invention.

As discussed above, Donahue does not even teach that reply information is stored in a memory by the reply unit. Therefore, Donahue could not teach anything regarding

a destruction unit that destroys information in a memory which it has not stored in the first place. The text cited by the Examiner at column 10 of Donahue merely says that the broken connection processing unit 600 exits when a connection is no longer open, and indicates that the connection was terminated. The mere indication that a connection was terminated, however, is not the same as having reply information actually stored in a memory, and then later destroyed by a reply information destruction unit when a connection is normally released. In fact, claim 2 further recites that the destruction unit operates when the connection is normally released, whereas the processing unit 600 is not described as being focused on normally released connections. Accordingly, for at least these reasons as well, the specific rejection of claim 2 based on Donahue is also traversed.

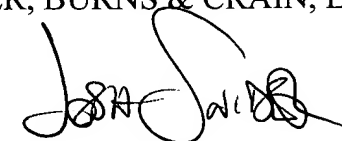
New claim 6 has been added to depend from dependent claim 3, and to recite further features relating to the reply information of the present invention. The support for new claim 6 can be found at least at page 11, lines 16-25 of the present Specification. Although no further discussion should be necessary to overcome the Section 102 rejection of the claims discussed above, the Examiner should find that these new claim features even further distinguish the present invention over the cited Donahue reference, and emphasize the differences between Donahue and the present invention already discussed. Entry, consideration on the merits, and allowance of new claim 6 are also respectfully requested.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application, including claims 1-6, is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh C. Snider", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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